

(i) The appeal is not considered as a complaint; and

(ii) Technical rules of evidence, such as the Federal Rules of Evidence and Subpart B of 29 CFR Part 18, will not apply to any hearing conducted under this section. However, rules designed to assure production of the most credible evidence available and to subject testimony to test by cross-examination will be applied when the Administrative Law Judge conducting the hearing considers them reasonably necessary. The certified copy of the administrative file transmitted to the Administrative Law Judge by the official issuing the final determination must be part of the evidentiary record of the case and need not be moved into evidence.

(4) The Administrative Law Judge should render a written decision no later than 90 days after the closing of the record. In ordering relief, the ALJ may exercise the full authority of the Secretary under the OAA.

(5) The decision of the ALJ constitutes final agency action unless, within 21 days of the decision, a party dissatisfied with the ALJ's decision, in whole or in part, has filed a petition for review with the Administrative Review Board (ARB) (established under Secretary's Order No. 2-96), specifically identifying the procedure, fact, law or policy to which exception is taken. The Department will deem any exception not specifically urged to have been waived. A copy of the petition for review must be sent to the opposing party at that time. Thereafter, the decision of the ALJ constitutes final agency action unless the ARB, within 30 days of the filing of the petition for review, notifies the parties that the case has been accepted for review. Any case accepted by the ARB must be decided within 180 days of acceptance. If not so decided, the decision of the ALJ constitutes final agency action.

**§ 641.930 Is there an alternative dispute resolution process that may be used in place of an OALJ hearing?**

(a) Parties to a complaint that has been filed according to the requirements of § 641.920 (a), (c), and (d) may choose to waive their rights to an administrative hearing before the OALJ. Instead, they may choose to transfer

the settlement of their dispute to an individual acceptable to all parties who will conduct an informal review of the stipulated facts and render a decision in accordance with applicable law. A written decision must be issued within 60 days after submission of the matter for informal review.

(b) Unless the parties agree in writing to extend the period, the waiver of the right to request a hearing before the OALJ will automatically be revoked if a settlement has not been reached or a decision has not been issued within the 60 days provided in paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) The decision rendered under this informal review process will be treated as the final agency decision.

**PART 645—PROVISIONS GOVERNING WELFARE-TO-WORK GRANTS**

**Subpart A—Scope and Purpose**

Sec.

645.100 What does this part cover?

645.110 What are the purposes of the Welfare-to-Work program?

645.120 What definitions apply to this part?

645.125 What are the roles of the local and State governmental partners in the governance of the WtW program?

645.130 What are the effective dates for the Welfare-to-Work 1999 Amendments?

645.135 What is the effective date for spending Federal Welfare-to-Work formula funds on newly eligible participants and newly authorized services?

**Subpart B—General Program and Administrative Requirements**

645.200 What does this subpart cover?

645.210 What is meant by the terms "entity" and "project" in the statutory phrase "an entity that operates a project" with Welfare-to-Work funds?

645.211 How must Welfare-to-Work funds be spent by the operating entity?

645.212 Who may be served under the general eligibility and noncustodial parent eligibility (primary eligibility) provision?

645.213 Who may be served as an individual in the "other eligibles" (30 percent) provision?

645.214 How will Welfare-to-Work participant eligibility be determined?

645.215 What must a WtW operating entity that serves noncustodial parent participants do?